

Town of Paxton Board of Selectmen

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 29, 2005

Members Present: Frederick G. Goodrich, Chairman, Michael Quinlivan, Vice Chair
John F. Malone, Clerk

Charles Blanchard, Town Administrator

Attendees: See attendee list

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Minutes

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2005. Unanimous.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the Executive Session Minutes of August 15, 2005. Unanimous.

Patrolman Appointment

- Chief Desrosiers introduced new Full-time Patrolman Paul Newsham. He will replace Mark Shepard who provided a letter of resignation.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (MQ) to accept the recommendation of the Chief and Town Administrator to appoint Paul Newsham as Full-time Patrolman. Unanimous.

Dispatcher Appointment

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation to appoint Kalie Walker as a Part-time Dispatcher.

Wachusett School Representatives

- Alice Livdahl (AL) WRSDC approved a non binding vote on August 23, 2005 to reduce the FY06 budget by \$626,769, reducing Paxton's Assessment to \$626,769. Official vote to take place on September 12, 2005.
- (AL) was able to lower number as an effort was made to hire lower salaried teachers and many elected not to take health insurance.
- (JM) asked what the health insurance premium increases were FY06. (AL) was unable to answer this.
- Chris de. Marcken had requested a line item breakdown of the budget, but only received an appropriation of the budget.
- (JM) suggested that each line item show the adjustment over last year. (AL) stated that she was able to do this.
- (AL) asked whether the article for any revised assessment would be subject to a 2½ override over the Joint Resolution number and if the BOS was going to keep to the joint resolution. A petition had been discussed by the WRSDC to force "a not less than vote"

- (FG) this is not just a one year problem, will only be worse next year.
- (AL) will not support the petition if the article is not subjected to an override. Cindy Ahearn confirmed that she did not support the petition.
- BOS asked whether the School Committee had done any forward planning for future budgets.
- (AL) confirmed that no planning had taken place, but that the committee will attend a seminar of “budget building”
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to table to discuss whether new assessment should be subject to an override. Unanimous.

Bay Path Vocational School Representative Appointment

- **Motion** (FG) seconded (JM) to appoint Sandy Benoit as Bay Path Vocational School Representative for a one-year term. Unanimous.

Agricultural Commission – Right to Farm Bylaw

- (CB) proposed appointing a committee to get a bylaw in place by December 2006 for the Smart Growth Capital Grant.
- **Motion** to commit the BOS to work towards an Agricultural Commission and a Right to Farm Bylaw by December 2006. Unanimous.

Town Administrator's Update

Next Years Budget Process

- (CB) provided a process for streamlining the budget procedures to provide a budget package for the Finance Committee and BOS by January 16, 2006.
- BOS asked that this process be viewed by Finance Committee and then they will vote on this at their next meeting.

Draft Policy for Posting Positions

- (CB) recommended adopting the draft policy for both Town jobs and committee positions.
- **Motion** (MQ) seconded (FG) to accept the recommendation. Unanimous.
- (FG) would also like to see the policy include that family members cannot report to family members.

Bid Results for the PCS Replacement Windows

- (CB) one bidder suggested that the bids should have been under the requirements of MGL 149 Section 44A.
- Opinion received from Town Counsel was to reject all bids and re-bid again under MGL Section 149 44A through 44J.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (MQ) to reject all bids and re-bid in the best interest of the Town. Unanimous.

Estimated Tax Bills

- (CB) Assessors have decided that estimated tax bills could be issued if need be, which would save short-term borrowing.
- (MQ) suggested that this may not be able to be done as no school budget in place.

- (FG) need to look into this further as this may cost the Town more in administration.

Chapter 90 Funds

- DPW provided a list of roads that would be worked on with provided with Chapter 90 Funds

Additional Updates

- PC Plus to visit August 31, 2005 to go over the networking design.
- Commonwealth Capital Application to be submitted August 30, 2005.

Other Business

- (FG) stated that the COA should be commended for the Picnic last week as the Volunteer Recognition.

Town Hall Security

- BOS agreed that there should be one access code.

West Street Property

- (FG) plans to submit capital planning forms for the purchase of 13 & 15 West Street, this would provide access to Town property and future needs.
- **Motion** (FG) seconded (MQ) to forward forms to the Capital Committee. Unanimous.

Motion (FG) seconded (MQ) to adjourn Regular Meeting at 9:35pm. Unanimous.

Respectively submitted,

Carol L. Riches, Administrative Assistant